



News Release

RDCRS Grade 4 student teacher named Honourable Lois E. Mitchell Award recipient

For immediate release – April 10, 2024

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools is proud to announce that Jillian Klevyer, a Grade 4 student teacher at St. Martin de Porres School, has been named as a recipient of the Honourable Lois E. Mitchell Graduating Social Studies Teacher Award. The award, named after former Alberta Lieutenant Governor Lois E. Mitchell, is awarded to graduating education students from Alberta with a specialization in social studies.

Klevyer is currently in the fourth and final year of the Bachelor of Education Program at Red Deer Polytechnic, operated in collaboration with the University of Alberta. As part of her award application, Jillian prepared a presentation on Deerfoot, the legendary Siksika long-distance runner and the namesake of Calgary's Deerfoot Trail and Deerfoot City Mall.

As part of her presentation, Klevyer developed a Venn Diagram featuring hockey legend Wayne Gretzky on one side and Deerfoot on the other, which she then presented to her class. She then challenged her students to bring home what they had learned to foster discussion with their families around the kitchen table.

"Realizing I knew nothing about Deerfoot, a name so familiar from the road and mall in Calgary, sparked a journey of discovery. Despite knowing famous names like Wayne Gretzky, I was embarrassed that I didn't know the story behind Deerfoot's name, who was an incredible athlete and a barefoot runner from the late 1800s. This realization made me see how often we overlook history right under our feet, even though it surrounds us every day," explained Klevyer.

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She presented her social studies unit plan to four judges over Zoom, one of whom was Lois E. Mitchell.

"I believe strongly in the power of learning and growing. My goal was never to win, but to push myself into new challenges and grow through the experience. While winning is great, it's the journey and the lessons learned that truly matter," said Klevyer.

"Congratulations to Jillian Klevyer on receiving the Honourable Lois E. Mitchell Graduating Social Studies Teacher Award. We are blessed to have such a dedicated educator completing her practicum in our division," shared RDCRS Board Chair Murray Hollman.

As an Honourable Lois E. Mitchell Graduating Social Studies Teacher Award recipient, Jillian will have the opportunity to dine with the Honourable Lois E. Mitchell at a later date. She will also receive a crystal owl and a cash award of \$1,500.

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools serves over 10,650 students in 21 schools in Red Deer, Blackfalds, Sylvan Lake, Rocky Mountain House, Innisfail, and Olds. It also supports the learning of over 850 students in a Home Education Program. The Division is committed to serving children and parents with a complete offering of learning opportunities delivered within the context of Catholic teachings and within the means of the Division.

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